



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**EASLEY APPROVES \$109 MILLION IN DISASTER RECOVERY GRANTS:
REQUIRES ENFORCEABLE TIME DEADLINES TO EXPEDITE RECOVERY**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced the award of \$109.3 million in state disaster-recovery grants to Eastern North Carolina counties and towns still rebuilding after Hurricane Floyd. The state is requiring local governments to spend the money and finish their recovery projects within one year of the grant award.

\$101.1 million will go toward the repair or replacement of homes damaged or destroyed by the storm. The remaining \$8.2 million will fund infrastructure improvements such as roads and sewer systems for new subdivisions. The funds are part of the \$836.6 million appropriated during a special session of the General Assembly in December 1999.

“These awards will move hundreds of families that much closer to full recovery,” said Easley. “Now, we have got to work closely with local governments to make sure the rebuilding gets done as quickly as possible.”

Local governments applied for the grants on behalf of flood victims living in their communities. Cities and counties must now contract with builders and repair firms to have the work done. Local governments draw funds from the state as they complete the work.

“We created a time requirement to speed up the process of rebuilding,” said Easley. “Otherwise the developers have no incentive to finish the projects. The lack of enforceable time requirements has been the biggest problem in completing the recovery. We are dedicated to getting the flood victims back into homes so their lives can return to normal.”

The Redevelopment Center plans to meet with officials from counties with more than 200 reconstruction projects to discuss their ability to finish work by the deadline.

With these grants, the state has awarded a total of \$222.9 million to repair or replace 4,421 homes and \$22.6 million for infrastructure improvements to 2,419 lots in new subdivisions. Of the original \$836.6 million disaster-relief appropriation, the state has awarded \$815.6 million in grants and loans with another \$14.5 million in applications pending approval as of July.

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